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# Policy on Religious Observance

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode IslandFACULTY SENATE  
BILLAdopted by the Faculty Senate

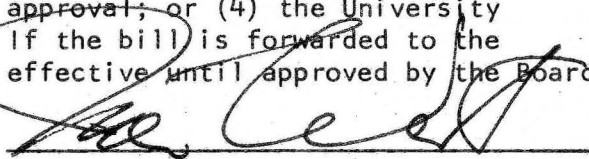
TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Policy on Religious Observance
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

is forwarded for your consideration.

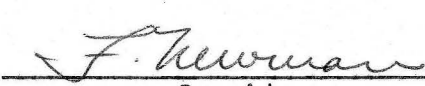
2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 22, 1982 (date).
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on May 13, 1982 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

April 23, 1982  
(date)  
Niels West  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate-----  
ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. a. Approved ✓.
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Regents \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_.

4/30/82  
(date)  
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 8, 1982

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommends the approval of the following new sections of the University Manual:

6.20.10 Policy on Religious Observance. No faculty or staff member, administrator or student shall be discriminated against because of religious beliefs or practice.

6.20.11 To facilitate course planning, religious holy days shall be designated in the university's calendar. Such designation shall be accomplished as follows: any member of the university community may petition the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee to include on the academic calendar such religious holy days which traditionally have precluded secular activities. The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee shall forward to the Faculty Senate any recommendations for such designations.

6.20.12 On such days where the religious calendar conflicts with the academic calendar, every effort shall be made by the faculty and teaching assistants to accommodate without prejudice the religious needs of the concerned students. In instances where quizzes, tests and examinations are scheduled on designated holy days, one of the following options must be made available to students:

- a. the same quiz, test or examination to be administered either before or after the normally scheduled time;
- b. a comparable alternate quiz, test or examination to be administered either before or after the scheduled time;
- c. an alternative weighting of the remaining evaluative components of the course which is mutually acceptable to the student and the faculty member.

6.20.13 A letter from the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate shall be sent to each faculty member and teaching assistant describing the university's policy with respect to the administration of quizzes, tests and examinations on university recognized religious holy days one week prior to the first week of ~~the~~ semester.

*each*

Ms. Grubman reminded the Executive Committee that the Chairperson of the Senate was charged with asking members of the Senate for discussion topics at the Faculty Senate meeting preceding the Liaison Committee meeting.

8. Chairperson West and Ms. Grubman reported on conversations with the President's Office concerning the possible distribution of Faculty Senate Agendas and Minutes to members of the Board of Governors.
9. The Executive Committee discussed topics for their April 5 meeting with President Newman, Vice President Ferrante and Assistant Vice President Swan. It was agreed to include the items remaining from the Agenda from the March 8 meeting and to add the issue of reimbursement for travel to and from Board of Governors' meetings and other related activities for the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate.
10. The Executive Committee discussed the names of possible out going senators who might serve on the Nominating Committee for the 1982-83 Faculty Senate.
11. It was agreed to include a discussion of the question of academic quality on the Agenda for a future Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Black Grubman